

## **THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS TAKES PART IN HISTORIC TRIBAL EDUCATION LEGISLATION SIGNING AT THE WHITE HOUSE**

**SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION, May 6, 2004** – Representing the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Chairman Deron Marquez demonstrated the tribe's support of federal tribal education initiatives on Friday April 30, 2004, by attending the signing of an Executive Order at the White House. The Executive Order on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, signed by President George W. Bush, provides the funding and support needed for Native American students to meet academic standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

"The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has consistently championed education and our participation in the signing of the Executive Order signifies the coming together of two nations that share a common goal of enhancing and supporting American Indian education," said Deron Marquez, Chairman of San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "The President has taken a strong stand to support the academic success of our Indian children while respecting the sovereignty and unique cultural needs of our tribal nations."

The Executive Order was developed by the White House and the U.S. Department of Education in consultation with the National Indian Education Association. The Order was designed to assist American Indian and Alaska Native students in meeting academic standards of the No Child Left Behind Act, while maintaining tribal traditions, language and culture. An interagency work group will be established to oversee the implementation of the Executive Order over the next 90 days.

Also present at the signing were Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Secretary of Education Rod Paige, along with other distinguished members of the United States Congress, including: President Pro Tem of the Senate, Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska; Senator Craig Thomas from Wyoming (a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee); and members of the House Resources Committee, including Ken Calvert of California, Richard Pombo of California and Dennis Rehberg of Montana.

Participating in the unveiling of such ground-breaking legislation underscores the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians' long-standing dedication to education, which also was illustrated by the tribe's \$3 million donation to California State University – San Bernardino and the recent \$4 million donation to the University of California – Los Angeles. Moreover, the tribe maintains a generous scholarship program for tribal members and employees of tribal enterprises – another avenue of support for education of tribal members and non-tribal members alike.

### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe in the way of monetary and bottled water donations for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

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